

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Notes from the Leadership

by Kerri Fair, Principal

There is something special about a new year, especially at the very beginning. The classrooms are primed with new supplies, bulletin boards are empty and waiting for student work, the teachers' lesson book is fresh with new ideas and ways to inspire the next set of new learners who enter. There is an overarching sense of anticipation before students come into a classroom; a sense of excitement about what will happen there.



As a classroom teacher, I remember just standing in the doorway late in the afternoon the day before the first day of school, looking at the empty room with its unlimited potential. I think most of us go into teaching (and even become parents) with the anticipation of that fateful day when we see the look of understanding

cross the face of a child. There aren't many more beautiful, touching, thrilling visions than that look that is followed by a brilliant smile. But then, you might later get the opportunity to see that child share the same wisdom with another child much younger, and then it comes full circle.

I read, recently, a note from an administrator of another school to their parents that really expressed my own thoughts about the beginning of a new school year, and this anticipated potential. Todd R. Nelson, Head of School at The School in Rose Valley near Philadelphia, writes, "We await the appearance of ourselves, the kindergartener in each of us that is intending to appear, over and over. Our experienced selves embrace the lingering novice selves.

This too is what we'll teach the kids. As we hold hands, stick together, embrace our vulnerabilities and strengths – with reverence."

At The Soulard School, we value new ideas, improved ways of teaching, and the freedom to provide unique experiences for our students each

### In This Issue

NOTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP: (P 1)

FALL CALENDAR: (P2)

STEAM LAB: (P3)

MEET OUR STAFF: (P4-11)

MEET OUR P.A.: (P12)

THRIVE'S CAMPING TRIP (P13)

LIBRARY CORNER (P14)

CLOVERS & STARS (P15)

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL: (BACK PAGE)

year. At the same time, we also recognize past achievements, important contributions from change-maker teachers and other people in our community, and sage advice from those who have been in education for several years. Our new STEAM lab and outdoor classroom provide a fresh space for new experiences, but we continue to be inspired by and embrace Soulard School historical pieces/places such as our mosaic wall, our pond area, and growing hallway library (to name a few). Each year we celebrate traditions, and look forward to new opportunities and experiences yet to come.

## Fall Calendar

- 10/13 FALL AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS BEGIN
- 10/20 GRANDPARENT COFFEE
- 10/25 FALL OPEN HOUSE 10:00 - 12:30
- 10/27 BIRTHDAY BOOK ASSEMBLY (OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS)
- 11/1 **CLOVERS AND STARS IRISH MUSIC BENEFIT**
- 11/3 **ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF**
- 11/4 FIRST TUESDAY PARENT COFFEE
- 11/7 SCHOOL CLOSED - RECORDS DAY
- 11/8 PARENT ASSOCIATION HARVEST FESTIVAL
- 11/14 **FEAST OF THANKS- 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
- 11/22 & 11/23 **SOULARD SCHOOL BOOK FAIR AT LEFT BANK BOOKS**
- 11/24 BIRTHDAY BOOK ASSEMBLY (NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS)
- 11/25 PARENT CONFERENCES (4:00 - 7:00)
- 11/26 SCHOOL CLOSED - PARENT CONFERENCES (8:30 - 3:30)
- 11/27-28 *THANKSGIVING BREAK*



## Photos from THRIVE Camping Trip



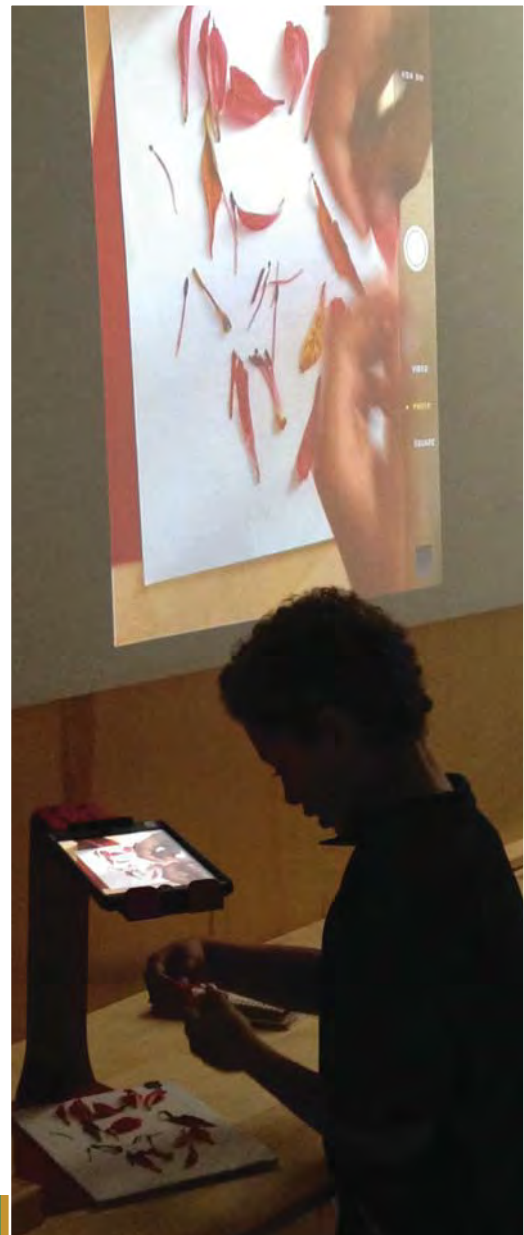




It has been a long time in the making, but the STEAM Lab is finally up and running! The STEAM Lab is a makerspace equipped with state of the art technology where learners of all ages and abilities use multiple disciplines to develop a love of learning and inquire about their world. Students question, wonder, observe, and explore; they create things, both analogue and digital. Our mission is to prime children's brains to think like inventors, designers, scientists, and engineers to prepare them for the many challenges they will encounter in life.

Students learn the importance of perseverance by embracing mistakes as part of the process—try, fail, try, fail, try again, and ultimately succeed at their own pace, becoming skilled with a variety of tools in the process. STEAM Lab experiences are designed to be hands-on and project based. They are the product of close collaboration between our classroom teachers and STEAM Lab instructor balanced by creativity, imagination, inspiration, and fun. From moon crater simulation and buoyancy experiments to design challenges and world travel via Google Earth, we are just beginning to scratch the surface of STEAM possibilities and are very excited to see what the future holds!

– Courtney Keefe, STEAM Lab



## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

### SARAH CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I began my career in education I started with the youngest age, preschool. I knew then, and now, how vital and meaningful this foundation was and felt it would be a place to make a positive impact. Little did I know when I found my way to this community almost 15 years ago what an opportunity for impact I was walking into. As a Co-Founder of The Soulard School, I am delighted everyday to see all that we have become, together. It has been an educator's dream to be a part of building a school that has layers of community, unique curriculum and innovative approaches. I value the relationships built in our close community of students, staff and parents and know what we are doing is making an impact.



I have two very wordy degrees, a Bachelors degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a focus on Children in Group Settings from the University of Missouri, Columbia. I continued on at Webster University and completed a Masters in the Arts of Teaching with an emphasis on Children's Creative Expression (phew!). During my Masters work I was able to explore my love of art and found ways to pass on my learning to students in the classroom. This experience gave me the foundation to help develop The Soulard School's creative side and embrace arts integration. Outside of school I enjoy going to art openings and exhibits, bragging about my husband Paul's amazing photography and walking the cutest pug in the world, Stella.

### BETHANY BURRESS, QUIETUDE TEACHER (PRE-K)

I am very eager to be returning to the Soulard School this year as a Pre-K teacher in the Quietude classroom. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in



Family and Child Studies from Eastern Illinois University. Upon graduation, I spent a brief time teaching in Illinois until my husband and I moved to Memphis. While in Memphis, I taught toddlers and Pre-K and enjoyed the experience and knowledge I gained while working in very diverse classrooms. My husband and I spent 4 years in Memphis during which time my daughter, Holland, was born. We relocated to the area, and soon after my daughter, Harper, was born. I am extremely excited for the upcoming year and all of the wonderful learning opportunities we will get to embark upon together. I look forward to getting to know each and every family and working together to ensure the children thrive and blossom in the Pre-K classroom. I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Soulard School community. In my spare time, I enjoy sewing, gardening, and camping with my family.

### JENNA MORRISON, QUIETUDE TEACHER (PRE-K)

I am beyond excited to continue my adventures in teaching Pre-K at The Soulard School! I earned my Bachelor's degree in Child Development and Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Throughout my time at Mizzou, I was a part-time teacher in a Montessori classroom and in the University's Child Development Lab. Furthermore, I was a student teacher at The College School in Webster Groves, where I embraced the school's Reggio Emilia inspired curriculum. Having been exposed to these various curriculums has helped me to build my own unique teaching philosophy, which I am excited to put into action and expand upon in the Quietude room. I strive to pass on my love of learning to the children by encouraging them to explore their ideas and interests and take an active role in their education. In my spare time, I enjoy any activity that involves being outside... especially watching Mizzou football!



## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

**ERIN QUICK, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Excited by the school's grassroots beginnings, my family eagerly joined the school in 2006. I have a BA in English - Creative Writing with an emphasis in Poetry, and a certificate in Women's Studies from Webster University. I have been a bookworm all my life, and am committed to building community through literature. I have volunteered in the school's library since 2006, and my role has included opportunities to teach poetry units & library lessons, coordinate author visits and host storytime with Club Soulard. Two years ago, my work in fundraising and community outreach for the school led me into Development, and this year my role has continued to expand. As Development Director, I will be taking our incredible story out into the larger world, putting my library research and writing skills to use on strategic planning, donor relationship-building and stewardship, campaigns and grant writing to help make all of our meaningful work here possible. I am a poet at heart, and outside of school you will find me writing poems and attending poetry readings. I love exploring the city with my partner Heath and making art with Audrey (Thrive) and Ezra (Mums). I also enjoy traveling, gardening, collecting old dishes, and of course, bedtime stories - most especially From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.

**FAITH MINA, NURSERY TEACHER**

My name is Faith Mina and I have recently graduated from Webster University. Shortly after I began my classes in Elementary Education, I found my calling in Special Education. I am now happily certified to teach both Elementary and Special Education. Working with students, of all ages, has been a passion, interest and hobby of mine for as long as I can remember! I have been tutoring for several years, as well as volunteering at my church with the Preschool children. I first came to The Soulard School last year as a support to the



students and teacher in the third grade classroom. I love to learn. I especially love learning how different children think and learn best. Toddlers are so much fun to work with as they ask endless questions and are fascinated by the world around them! Each and every day, my little friends make me smile and my heart sing. I am eager to explore new experiences with them this year and continuing to grow in and being a part of The Soulard School community!

**SARAH HENRICH, NURSERY TEACHER**

I attended Mizzou, where I earned a BS in Nutrition and Fitness. I spent my first two years after college teaching nutrition and fitness classes in various St. Louis Public Schools. I am currently studying for the GRE so that I can hopefully start working on my Masters degree in early childhood education in the summer of next year! My hobbies include knitting, sewing, running, yoga, and playing with my dogs.

**MELISSA DURANT, NURSERY TEACHER**

I discovered the Soulard School while I was a resident in Tower Grove and immediately fell in love with being part of such a close community. I have a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education as well as a passion for working with children. I have spent time in the elementary and pre-k classrooms, but I have found my calling to work with toddlers. I spent my first 5 years in an early childhood Montessori environment, a philosophy I have brought to the Nursery at Soulard School. I am very spirited and love to be curious with my students. To me, toddlers are the most fascinating people to observe; I can never get enough of their ever growing ideas and curiosity!





## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

### LEE HAHN, MOSAIC TEACHER (1ST & 2ND GRADES)

I excited and I am very proud to be able to continue my life-long learning journey with this amazing community and these personality-filled students! I have a wonderful husband, and 3 boys of my own: a hilarious 8 year old (Jaxon in the Alchemy class), a very clever almost 2 year old (Linkyn at the Nursery), and a beautiful brand new baby (Hayze at the Nursery). Generally, I am family oriented, and occupied at all times by the interesting aspects that they bring to my life! My children make me view everything in a different light and I am so thankful to them for allowing me to view education through a parental perspective. I have a BA in Elementary Education from Webster University, but am certified to teach birth through sixth grade. I have an emotional attachment to all of the students here at the school, and I love being able to implement TSS philosophies that I feel are essential for a prospering generation.



### PHILLIP MCFARLANE, ALCHEMY TEACHER (3RD & 4TH GRADES)

I am very happy to be joining the experienced and capable team at the Soulard School. I have lived in Chicago for the last 17 years where I have been a professional actor working primarily with children's educational programs. I have worked as a Montessori educator for 13 years, six of which were spent teaching math and science to 7th and 8th grade montessori students. I was also the Theatre Director for 8 years during which I wrote, produced and directed 3 operettas with 70 little Montessorians. I have my B.A. in Applied Behavioral Science from National Louis University and a degree from N.A.M.T.A. in the Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies. I enjoy playing the guitar, gardening, adding to my vinyl collection and working as an advocate for children.



### CAOLI FLYNN, AFTERSCHOOL TEACHER

In May I moved back to St. Louis from North Carolina with my family. In North Carolina, I was a teacher at Peace Rose Montessori and nannied for a few families. I had the privilege to teach with Margaret Maurice, an elementary school teacher, mother, yoga instructor, and director of Get Grounded yoga. Additionally, I have training in playground safety, CPR, inclusion in the classroom, fire safety and first aid. I enjoy teaching music, theater, and visual arts. I am delighted to be working and learning alongside the students of The Soulard School!



### MICHELLE STEELE, MUMS TEACHER (K)

My name is Michelle Steele and I'm am so excited to be teaching in such a supportive and collaborative learning environment! I have the honor of teaching our kindergarten friends and couldn't be happier to share in a year filled with discovery and wonder, led by their interests and passions. My degree is in Special and Elementary education, a passion I discovered while working with adults with a variety of diagnoses. It was apparent just how elemental quality early education was/is to the development of how a child's mind perceives stimuli and processes it. I am currently finishing my Master's degree in Profound to Severe Diagnosis at Webster University and hope to earn another in Positive Behavior Support. My daughter is a student in the Thrive class and I couldn't be happier with the education at Soulard. I'm just so pleased to be a partner in this process!



### EMILY BRYAN, OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME COORDINATOR

The Soulard School was my first job out of college back in 2007 when I started as an aftercare assistant and elementary art teacher. Life's adventures took me elsewhere for a few years-- working in an art museum, living

## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

in Europe, having two kids!--but TSS drew me back in when I took on the role of Out-of-School-Time Coordinator in spring of 2013. I have a bachelor's degree in art history, and even as I pursued that I knew I wanted to work in education. I have found that aftercare, clubs, and summer camp brings loads of opportunities to stretch and grow and try new experiments as I strive to help our students and campers make the most of their "free" time!

### MONICA WATSON, CULINARY ARTS INSTRUCTOR

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." Virginia Woolf Finding my way to the Soulard School felt like destiny. I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to do what I love. Working in a supportive school community allows me to combine my two passions, children and food. I'm committed to educating kids on



how to make healthy choices for life. I believe nutrition plays an extremely important role in developing whole children. I have spent the past six years working with this purpose by improving nutritional standards for young children in school settings and working for a farm to school lunch program.

I have a degree in Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts. I began working many years ago in restaurants and catering. After spending time at home with my children, I returned to find my focus nurturing kids with food and empowering them with food knowledge.

Our family began in Chicago before relocating to St. Louis 11 years ago. My husband and I have two sons in college and a daughter who graduated from St. Louis University last year. In my free time you'll find me running, spinning or on walks with my husband and our dog Gracie.

### MELISSA UHL, ALCHEMY TEACHER (3RD & 4TH GRADES)

I am delighted to begin my first year at the Soulard School as one of the third and fourth grade teachers in the Alchemy room. I feel so fortunate to begin my journey as a teacher at a school that values self-discovery and individuality. These values have been a part of my philosophy since I began my study of education. I attended Webster University where I got my bachelors degree in elementary education. During this time, I completed my practicum at The Soulard School. I fell in love with the tight knit community and core values of the school. In addition to studying education at Webster, I was president of the Webster University Speech and Debate team and studied abroad in London, England.



I now live in Webster Groves with my orange cat Samson. I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to this year with the Alchemy students. I am hoping to instill a love of learning in each student as we explore the world through authentic learning experiences.

### HALEY BIEHL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Every child learns differently, and what is fair is not always equal. It is our charge as educators to show regard for, and to reflect on, how a student expresses themselves academically, socially, and emotionally. In turn, we reflect on how our approach and interactions can adjust to ensure the child is feeling supported and respected. My role at The Soulard School has evolved from Student Support Coordinator to Assistant Principal. Now entering into my third year, I am thrilled with the opportunities to continually support and evolve with this delightful community of students, teachers, and parents.



## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

**HALEY BIEHL**, *Continued...*

I started my journey in education nearly 10 years ago (!) as a paraprofessional with the Illinois Center for Autism, and quickly learned that nurturing the growth and development of my students was far more rewarding than working as a freelance journalist. I returned to school and received my Masters in the Art of Teaching in Special Education, and then continued as a teacher at ICA before joining the Behavior Support team in Belleville, IL, where I taught 1st through 3rd grade. I found my way to The Soulard School when I married my wonderful husband, Jason, and made St. Louis my home. Outside of school, I teach barre and fitness classes at B|Three Fitness Studio, spend too much time spoiling the most adorable Boxer, Louie; and love going on (mis)adventures with my sisters.

**MATT KING**, STINGS & PERFORMING ARTS

I have been playing and teaching violin for over 25 years. I started learning violin at school in third grade, and love teaching at a school that starts in Kindergarten with the violin. I received a Bachelor in Music from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 2001, and joined the Soulard School in 2007, where I currently teach violin and performing arts. I have a son in Pre-K and a daughter at the Little School.

**CARRIE KEASLER**, STUDIO ARTS INSTRUCTOR

I am excited to return as the Studio Arts teacher at The Soulard School and to collaborate with classroom teachers to create authentic learning experiences for our students. I feel that our school's mission is to nurture personal, creative and intellectual growth for students and teachers alike. This sense of community and care is palpable when you walk through the halls and talk with one another. I initially studied art (with an emphasis in printmaking) at The University of Dallas. After moving to St. Louis, I began working with young people through

arts related organizations, but felt a calling to be in the classroom on a regular basis. In 2012 I completed Missouri certification in Art k-12. I am so fortunate to be a teacher and learner in The Soulard School community. When I am not teaching, I enjoy working on my artwork, reading, watching movies, and studying yoga.

**AMY CROSS**, QUIETUDE TEACHER (PRE-K)

My name is Amy Cross and I am very excited for my first, full, academic year in the Quietude classroom. Some of the families in our community met me during my time in Pre-K last year but it was teaching summer camp that I feel I found my role and built relationships at The Soulard School. My passion in life is working with children. They bring smiles to my face every day as I learn as much from them as they do from me. I am originally from the St. Louis area and graduated from UMSL with a degree in Elementary Education. While attending UMSL, I lived in Benton Park and really fell in love with the local community. Since that time I have been fortunate enough to travel extensively while living in Europe, Asia and Latin America. I taught English in a public all-girls school in South Korea. At that time, I volunteered at an afternoon program for economically underprivileged 4- 6 year olds. Although I always knew I wanted to teach, that was the first time I felt passionate about an age level - early childhood. I went on to the Dominican Republic where I was given the opportunity to work with preschool students again at Punta Cana International School. I stayed there four and a half years before returning to St. Louis. Now, I am living in the Soulard neighborhood with my dog, Pickle. I look forward to continued growth within an amazing environment where I see children being inspired and encouraged to live in such a positive, respectful way! In all my travels I found the uniqueness of individuals is what makes the world wonderful. I look forward to teaching in a way that helps students love themselves and appreciate others.





## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

**COURTNEY KEEFE, STEAM LAB INSTRUCTOR**

I'm incredibly excited to be taking on the role of



STEAM lab facilitator this year! Collaborating closely with classroom teachers and students alike, I am looking forward to the awesome learning experiences we will be creating together. Think, Design, Make, Build, Tinker, Improve!

As I go into my third year with The

Soulard School, I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this amazing school and to have the opportunity to work with such remarkable children. I attended undergraduate at Loyola University New Orleans where I received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. After Hurricane Katrina, I migrated to Miami, Florida for two years before returning to St. Louis to attend graduate school at Lindenwood University where I received my Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education. One of my goals as an educator is to inspire a love of learning in my students, as I share my passion for learning with them. I believe that teaching is more than a sacred responsibility; it is a privilege. When I am not at school, I can be found spending time with my family, friends, and beloved canine companion Chloe, curled up with good book, chasing pavement at the various city parks, or exploring anything that piques my curiosity.

**ELEANOR WHITE, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I am a St. Louis native, growing up just around the



corner from the school, in Lafayette Square. I attended Bard College, then received a Master's in Education Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Returning to St. Louis, I continued my education, receiving my certification in Elementary Education from Fontbonne. After a few years of

teaching at a charter school, I discovered the Soulard School, a place that looks just like the elementary

school I attended and loved as a kid. This is my eighth year with the Soulard School – I've had several positions at the school, teaching the kindergarteners and toddlers and working in the office. This year I am officially Assistant Executive Director. Meanwhile, my son Emmett is in first grade this year and Theo is in pre-k. When I'm not at school, I enjoy gardening and going to all the great family activities St. Louis has to offer.

**KERRI FAIR, PRINCIPAL**

Just as we hope to create life long learners in our



students, we strive to inspire and challenge our teachers to be wholehearted and passionate about learning. It will be my goal as principal to support both students and teachers on this journey this year. Before coming to The Soulard School, I was a reading specialist in the

Hazelwood School District for three years, a classroom teacher for seven years in North Kansas City, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO my first year as an educator. While teaching at The Soulard School, I have been a classroom teacher, literacy coach, and instructional specialist. I have taught grades K through fourth grade and now have eighteen years of experience as an educator "under my belt". I hold a Masters in Reading Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and am beginning my Ed Specialists degree in educational leadership through Webster University this fall. My husband, Clayton, and I are also parents of three Soulard School students. Our son, Colin, is a third grade Alchemy student. Audrey, our oldest daughter is a first grader in the Enigma classroom. And, finally, our youngest daughter, Emma, will finish out her second year in the Quietude pre-k classroom this year. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.

## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

### SHERI MANCUSO, NURSERY TEACHER

As a veteran educator, I have taught Infants and Toddlers, Preschool, Kindergarten, First and Second grade. I have served on the steering committee for Independent Schools Association for the Central States, Missouri Voluntary Accreditation and as a National Validator for the National Association of Education for young children. I am also certified with Missouri Parents as Teachers in Special Education. I have a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education from Webster University and have furthered my studies in numerous continuing education classes. I am thrilled to be working in the nursery and nurture one of the important beginnings at a school with high standards and community involvement. I am looking forward to incorporate what I have learned as a Program Coordinator for an Infant/Toddler Center any my love for children. In my spare time I enjoy reading, nature walks, swimming, traveling, and theater. I take pleasure in visiting with my daughter in Los Angeles and spending time with my six brothers and sisters, seventeen nieces and nephews and friends.



### JULIE RADIN, MUMS TEACHER (K)

Joining the community at The Soulard School is a dream come true for me. I have 20 years of teaching experience at various grade levels. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Education from Missouri Baptist University. I am a MySci Ambassador. MySci is an organization helping students make their own scientific discoveries, and I love helping my students discover new ideas. In my spare time I enjoy browsing antique malls with my sister, taking long walks through city neighborhoods, catching up with friends in coffee shops, and reading with my dogs curled up beside me. If you asked my students about me, they would probably tell you that I



really like animals, reading to my class, and chocolate. And they would say they know I love them. All true especially the last; I love my students. The children's author, Mem Fox, says it for me - "I like children. I like them very much. I have enormous respect for their intelligence and ability, and high hopes for their future."

### JOANNA DANIELS, ENIGMA TEACHER (1ST GRADE)

I could not be more excited about joining the Soulard School community! The Soulard School's enthusiasm for sustainability and respect for the Earth have attracted me to join the community, as well as witnessing the innovative, creative learning that occurs here. I have a Bachelor's Degree from UMSL in Special Education where I was also able to earn teaching certification in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Currently, I am completing my Master's in Special Education. Previously, I taught students with autism for Special School District at one of their public separate schools. This amazing experience allowed me to reflect on the uniqueness of each learner and recognize each student's gifts and abilities. Besides teaching, I am passionate about animal rescue and living a lifestyle that embraces and protects our animal friends. I live in St. Louis Hills with my fiancé, Spencer, and our dog, Macklind- who yes, was named after the street from which he was rescued! I am very much looking forward to the adventure we will be embarking on together during this upcoming year!



### ANNA LEE, MOSAIC TEACHER (1ST & 2ND GRADES)

I am so excited to be back at the Soulard School as the new first and second grade teacher! My teaching journey that lead me to this point started at Mizzou in 2006 where I studied psychology. Shortly after graduating from there in 2010,



## MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2014-15 STAFF

I began working for the special school district as an aid and interventionist for a few students through out their days. I loved being in a school environment and working with the children so much that I knew I wanted to become a teacher. I quickly enrolled in Webster University, where I received my Master of Arts in Teaching in 2012. Luckily, during my time at Webster, my student teaching brought me to the Soulard School. I became a Mum in kindergarten for two months in the fall of 2012 and really fell in love with the school and the philosophy. I am thrilled to be back this year as the first and second grade teacher in the Mosaic room! Other than teaching, I love to spend time with my family and friends. We go to as many Cardinal's games as possible and always have a great time together!

### **ANN LUCIANI, THRIVE TEACHER(5TH GRADE)**



I am so excited to, again, be learning with the Thrive classroom this year! I am beginning my second full year of teaching in an elementary setting as part of The Soulard School community. I first learned about The Soulard School when I worked as a literacy tutor through Webster University's Student Literacy Corp. I knew this was the school for me when I walked in on my first day and saw the Mums crab walking down the hall! After graduating in December of 2012 with my master's degree in elementary education, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn with the wonderful Enigma students as a long-term substitute. I am even more fortunate to be teaching at a school that embodies a philosophy that matches my own. Teaching is a second (and final!) career for me. My first degree was in business, majoring in finance with

a minor in economics. I worked for 10 years in the insurance and securities business until I decided to stay home with my two children. I first realized I wanted to pursue a career in education after volunteering in my children's schools and teaching preschool music for three years. I truly feel I was called to be a teacher. Both my children are juniors in college now and my husband and I enjoy running, going out to dinner, and traveling to our cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula every summer with our dog and kids. Now that we are empty nesters, my time and energy is dedicated to helping instill in my students a lifelong love of learning. I look forward to making this the best year possible for the Thrive learners.

### **LISA BERMAN, P.E. INSTRUCTOR**

This is my second year as The Soulard School's physical education instructor. I have an M.Ed. in Literacy, Language and Cultural Studies and have taught for more than 20 years in both formal and informal settings. My most significant education credits include teacher and administrator at the South Shore Charter Public School for 6 years in Massachusetts and then outreach coordinator at the Saint Louis Zoo for another 6 years until I decided to leave full time work to focus more on our family. I also currently run a program called Club SLLIS at the St. Louis Language Immersion Schools, and coach sport stacking at The Soulard School and at Concordia Gymnastics Society. This past summer, my daughter and I were invited to join the USA Sport Stacking Team and will be competing in the World Sport Stacking Championships for the first time this spring. My two children, Holly and Darius, are both students at The Soulard School.



## Yes, we really do have an amazing Staff!

I encourage you to reach out to the staff and learn more about them as people, as well as educators.



## MEET OUR SCHOOL'S PARENT ASSOCIATION

The Soulard School Parent Association (PA) is a place where we can come together and add to the community of our school; **the experience of our students, educational resources for our teachers, support of our administration and school facility, and our collective experience as parents.**

The PA partners with the school and supports the administration with events like the Volunteer Rally, Grandparents Breakfast, Open House, Feast of Thanks, Buzz Books and Newsletters. The PA sponsors events like the Welcome/Welcome Back BBQ, Spooky Sock Hop and Records Day Lunches.

Most of the PAs support is fueled by our fundraising efforts, like our beer booth at Soulard Oktoberfest and Soulard Market Concert Series and a Fresh Pasta Sale with Midwest Pasta.

**Our support directly impacts the school by funding classroom initiatives, professional development, landscaping, maintenance and beautification, and much more.**



Each family in The Soulard School is automatically a member of our PA.

**But what does that really mean?** It means your VOICE, your VOLUNTEER TIME, your TALENTS, and your RESOURCES are part of what makes our school a community. Who you are as parents is who we are as a community.

When we gathered at the Volunteer Rally in September we talked about the importance of continuing the commitment of strong parental involvement, and how what we offer makes such a difference. The PA is working at all times because of this shared philosophy between us. **We are what our parent community makes us – and it's the uniqueness of you and your family that makes this a special place.**

The PA supports ongoing reflection of “Who is our Community” as new families join us each year, and others go to the Alumni rolls.

I invite you to participate in the PA and help us define our community and how we support our school this year.

**Our next meeting is Thursday, October 23rd in the McGurk's Room at Soulard School, starting at 6:00 p.m.**

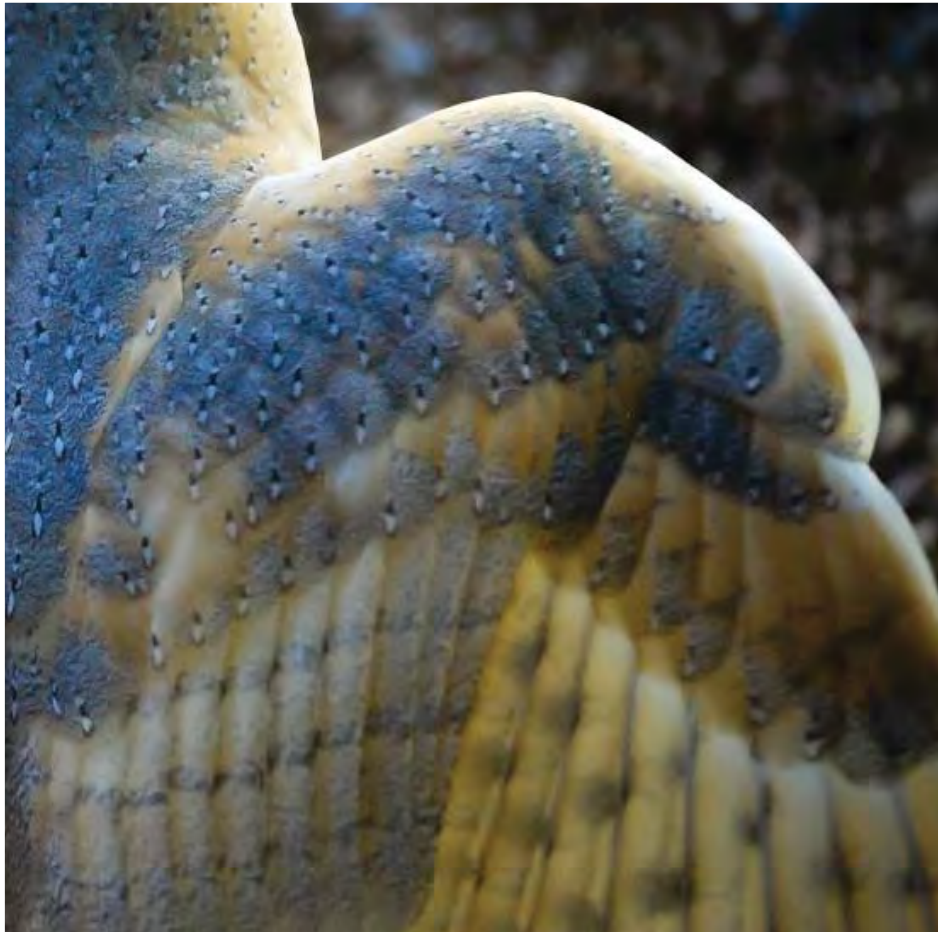
-Beth Hyser

### 2014-15 PARENT ASSOCIATION

President:	BETH HYSER
Vice President:	LISA BERMAN
Secretary:	MATT KING
Treasurer:	SHANNON MCGRATH
Room Coordinator Coordinators:	
EC:	SHAWNA CLIMER
Elem:	SIERRA CORTAZZO
Social Events:	SARAH FOLKEMER-COLEMAN
	AMY COREY
	GWEN WEST
	LAURA JACOBSON
Outreach:	SHELLY FLYNN-HARDING
	CHARLES BOCK
	CARA SPENCER
	ESMERALDA FELIX
Member at Large:	HEATHER MANLEY

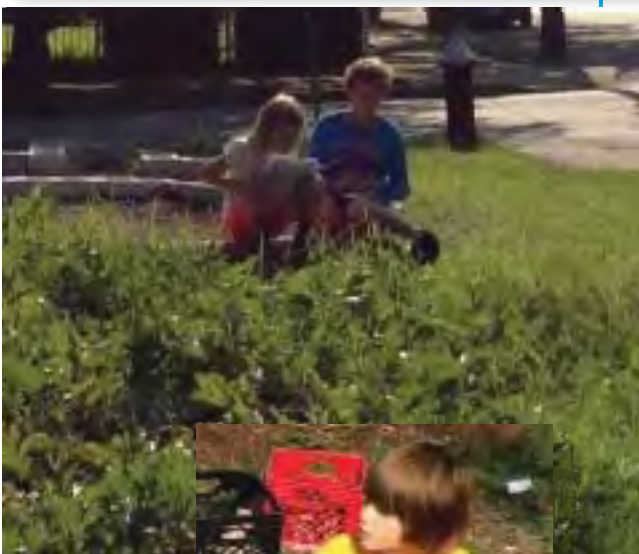
## Thrive's Camping Trip to World Bird Sanctuary and Babler State Park

Thrive's current study of the specialized structures of plants and animals brought us to the **World Bird Sanctuary** and **Babler State Park**. Students are learning, through these interactive experiences with nature, that **both scientists and artists require the ability to be close observers**. While at the World Bird Sanctuary, Thrivers participated in a class about birds of prey and then focused on the specialized structures of birds from around the globe. With the help and guidance of Eric Nemens (a Thrive parent) each student brought a camera to photograph birds. The **photo journaling** continued on a two hour hike at Babler State Park where students used their skills of observation to see nature through a photographer's eyes on the Thrivers' annual overnight camping trip. By combining art and science students were able to **capture the details of the natural world around them** in unique and creative ways. Sharing their photos with each other **inspired everyone** to look at nature's beauty and structure in a more profound, artistic, and scientific manner.





## Scenes from our OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



## Library Corner

Welcome to the Library Corner! Here we will be sharing news about the school library, sending out occasional library requests, and talking about all manner of things bookish. In addition to the newsletter, you can visit the school's website ([www.soulardschool.org](http://www.soulardschool.org)) to find our online Library Corner ("About The Soulard School" section). It features a blog, information about birthday books, a Librarian's Pick-of-the-Month, and more.

Each elementary classroom visits the library weekly. Classes began their library days in September, so you have probably seen books coming home. Please be sure your child brings his/her books back to school on their library day each week (see below). If a library book gets lost or damaged beyond repair, we ask that you please replace it.

### Library Day Schedule:

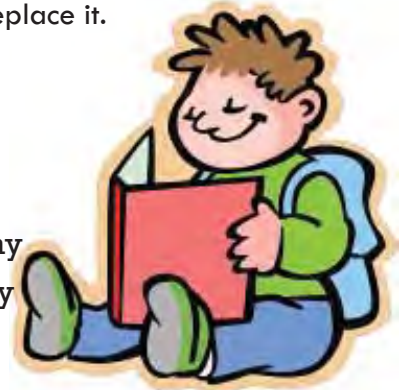
Mums (K) - Tuesday

Enigma (1) - Tuesday

Mosaic (1-2) - Wednesday

Alchemy (3-4) - Thursday

Thrive (5) - Friday



Many thanks to everyone who signed up on the Library and Book Fair committees at the Volunteer Rally! I am looking forward to working with everyone throughout the school year.

**The Book Fair at Left Bank Books is taking place**

**Nov. 22-23.** This is a wonderful opportunity to support both our school and a cherished local bookstore, and we ask all families to attend sometime that weekend. As our library's main fundraiser, this event allows us to continue developing our magnificent collection.

Word.

-Erin the Librarian





## Clovers & Stars

McGurks proudly presents  
**Clovers & Stars: An Irish Music and  
 Dance Festival to benefit our school!**

WHAT: Clovers & Stars  
 WHEN: Saturday, November 1st  
 TWO PERFORMANCES: 3-5pm, and 7-9pm  
 WHERE: Soulard Preservation Hall,  
 1921 9th Street, Historic Soulard  
 HOW MUCH: \$100 ticket / \$1,000 table of 10

Clovers & Stars will be a rollicking good time, with entertainment, wine & cheese, appetizers and desserts provided by McGurks, Bommarito Wines, Bogarts and others. Guests will be treated to a festive evening of traditional Irish music and dance from some amazing local talent. Performers include The Irish Brigade, with Tommy Martin from Celtic Woman and featuring Ian Walsh, Kevin Buckley and Chris Weddle. Special guests include St. Louis Irish Arts' internationally acclaimed Irish musicians and dancers, and feature a performance from our own Soulard School Orchestra with Matt King! The event will take place at Soulard Preservation Hall in the Historic Soulard neighborhood.

Families are welcome to attend, and we are looking for a handful of volunteers to represent the school that afternoon and evening. Please contact Development Director Erin Quick (erin.quick@soulardschool.org) if you are interested in helping out at the event. All proceeds will benefit our school, so spread the word - pass this along to all of the Irish music lovers you know!

This event, sponsored by a local business and hosted at a local venue to benefit our neighborhood school, is a wonderful example of the commitment of our community. THANK YOU to McGurks for their amazing generosity, and for organizing this event in support of our school.

*McGurk's* proudly presents



## CLOVERS & STARS

... An Irish Music and Dance Festival ...

to benefit

THE  
**SOULARD ★ SCHOOL**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Choose from two performances: 3pm or 7pm  
 Doors open 30 minutes before each performance at:



## Thanks to our Very Generous Donors

We are profoundly grateful to those who help The Soulard School build capacity through very generous pledges and gifts.

### FOUNDING DONORS

(\$10,000 - \$40,000 per year, up to 5 years)

ANONYMOUS  
 JOAN & LANCE CALLIS  
 DR. WILLIAM DANFORTH  
 GRAY, RITTER & GRAHAM, P.C.  
 JAMES P. HOLLORAN  
 ORVILLE MIDDENDORF  
 ANDREW O'BRIEN  
 THE SAIGH FOUNDATION  
 TODAY AND TOMORROW  
 EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
 THE JOAN AND JOHN VATTEROTT  
 FOUNDATION

### MAJOR DONORS

(\$5,000 - \$25,000)

ANONYMOUS  
 MICHAEL BARR, SYSCO ST. LOUIS  
 ROBERT BLITZ  
 DANA BROWN CHARITABLE TRUST  
 DEACONESS FOUNDATION  
 LUCIE & DAVID DEMPSEY,  
 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT REVIEW  
 LAURA & NORMAN EAKER  
 EMERSON CHARITABLE TRUST  
 E. REUBEN & GLADYS FLORA GRANT  
 CHARITABLE TRUST, ERIC TREMAYNE  
 AND COMMERCE BANK, TRUSTEES  
 JOHN D. MCGURK'S  
 MISSOURI ARTS COUNCIL  
 THE SOULARD SCHOOL PARENT  
 ASSOCIATION

### STEAM LAB SUPPORTERS

We are very excited to open the STEAM Lab for the 2014-2015 school year (see p. 3)!  
 THANK YOU to all who supported the STEAM Lab Renovation Project:

ANONYMOUS (3)  
 EMILY & NATHAN BECKETT  
 THE BOCK FAMILY  
 LOUISE & PAUL CAMERON  
 SARAH CHRISTMAN  
 DR. WILLIAM DANFORTH  
 BARBARA FEIL  
 GOLDSTEIN FAMILY FOUNDATION  
 INFUZ  
 ANNE COGGAN JOHNSTON  
 JUSTIN LANIER  
 MERCURY LABS  
 MACY MEHRLE  
 KRISTIN & MARCUS MOOMEY  
 ERIN QUICK & HEATH HARRIS  
 SOULARD COMMUNITY HOUSING  
 CORPORATION  
 NORMAN J STUPP FOUNDATION,  
 COMMERCE BANK TRUSTEE  
 DANIELLE TAYLOR  
 JUDITH VAUPEL

### Our Growing Partnership with Webster University and Boeing

We are thrilled to announce that our "Teachers Matter" research project received funding approval in September 2014! This collaborative project will be administered by The Soulard School and Webster University, in partnership with Boeing; and is supported by a grant to Webster University from Boeing. Thank you to Dr. Stephanie Mahfood and the Webster team for all their hard work on this project!

### Thank you to our many supporters and partners!



[theSAIGHfoundation.org](http://theSAIGHfoundation.org)

Litzsinger Road Ecology Center